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Department of State

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN HA-05

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DRAFTED BY: HA/HR/PJFLOOD
APPROVED BY: HA/HR/PJFLOOD
ARA/ECA: DVANTREECK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 3017

STATE 000108

FOLLOWING REPEAT ASUNCION 5524 ACTION SECSTATE DEC 27

QUOTE ASUNCION 5524

E. OM 12065: ADS 12/26/80 DION, JERROLD MARK) OR-M.
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, PA
SUBJECT: GOP ANNOUNCES RELEASE TO TWO MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS;
ONE FORMER HUNGER STRIKER

REF: ASUNCION 5135

1. PRESS DECEMBER 27 ANNOUNCES RELEASE FROM DETENTION OF TWO MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS, ONE OF WHOM PARTICIPATED IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER HUNGER STRIKE AND WHOSE RELEASE GOP GUARANTEED TO WESTERN AMBASSADORS. EDUARDO BOGADO TABAGMAN WAS LAST OF FOUR HUNGER STRIKERS GOP PROMISED TO RELEASE IN SEPARATE UNDERTAKINGS TO WEST EUROPEAN (FRG, UK AND FRANCE) AND TO U.S. AMBASSADORS. OTHER PRISONER RELEASED, ROLON CENTURION, HAD TAKEN PART IN HUNGER STRIKE BUT GAVE UP BEFORE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WITH INTERIOR MINISTER MONTANARD.

2. COMMENT: AFTER MONTHS LONG DELAY IN FULFILLING PROMISE, EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS WENT TO SEE FONMIN NOGUES LAST WEEK TO REMIND HIM OF PLEDGE. I MADE SAME POINT TO PAPPALARDO AND ACOSTA IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. TARDILY BUT FINALLY, THIS PROMISE HAS BEEN REDEEMED AND GOP IS NOW DOWN TO FIVE POLITICAL PRISONERS --THREE PARAGUAYANS: CARLOS BARANAS GADEA, JOSE GILL OJEDA FELKAN, VIRGILIO BAREIRO; ONE ARGENTINE, AMILCAR SANTUCHO; AND ONE AUSTRIAN, GUNTHER OTTO PORTENSCHLAG. UNFORTUNATELY, FONMIN NOGUES HAS TOLD THE FRG AMBASSADOR THAT BOGADO TABAGMAN WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. FRG AMBASSADOR ENGELS JUST CALLED TO TELL ME THAT THE INTER-FAITH COMMITTEE HAS ADVISED HIM BOTH BOGADO TABAGMAN AND ROLON CENTURION WERE DEPORTED TODAY TO CLORINDA, ARGENTINA, JUST ACROSS THE RIVER FROM ASUNCION.
WHITE, UNQUOTE VANCE

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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